

May 2, 2002  
DRAFT

**DOT NATIONAL CROSSING INVENTORY-  
EXPLORING NEW WAYS TO IMPROVE  
NOTES/SUMMARY FROM PREVIOUS OUTREACH MEETINGS**

**Previous Meetings:** November 8, 2001 Dallas & TX, March 5, 2002 Washington, D.C.

**Comments and Suggested Changes to National National Inventory Crossing Inventory**  
(Reference U.S. DOT Crossing Inventory Form and “Format for FRA Inventory Fields”):

**C. Reason for Update**

- C Add “Abandoned”
- C Add “Inactive”

**I.7. RR Milepost**

Add an alpha prefix and suffix to Milepost

**I.17. Crossing Type and 18. Crossing Position**

- C Pedestrian is NOT really a type. There are Public Pedestrian and Private Pedestrian. Crossing Type should be Public or Private, then Vehicular or Pedestrian.
- C
  - ~ pedestrian/bike
  - ~ highway
  - ~ public
  - ~ private
  - ~ at grade
  - ~ grade separated

**I.19. Type of Passenger Service**

Change to:

- ~ AMTRAK Only
- ~ AMTRAK & Other
- ~ Commuter Only
- ~ Light Rail Shared

### **I.21. HSR Corridor ID**

Is HSR Corridor ID needed?

### **I.22. County Map Ref. No.**

Should “County Ref Map” be deleted?

### **I.23. Latitude and I.24 Longitude**

Use World Geodetic System (WGS) 84 Standard for Latitude and Longitude

### **I.26. Is there an Adjacent Crossing with a Separate Number?**

Add the word Parallel. “Is there a Parallel Adjacent Crossing with a Separate Number?”

Need ability to query railroad from RR Operating Company plus Other Railroad Operating over same track or separate track at crossing.

### **I.32. Railroad Contact; 33 State Contact**

- C Railroad Contact can be public projects engineer (from an engineering standpoint).
- C Change wording to Item 32 to “Non-Emergency RR Contact”, and 33 to “Non-Emergency State Contact”

### **II.1. Number of Daily Train Movements**

Change wording to “Average Number of Daily Train Movements”

### **III.2.C. RR Advance Warning Signs (W10-1), III.2.D.Hump Crossing Signs (W10-5), and III.2.E. Pavement Markings -**

- C Move these fields to Part IV “Physical Characteristics”.
- C Distinction between crossing warning devices and traffic control (highway) devices.

### **III.3.D. Mast Mounted Flashing Lights**

Rewrite as “Flashing Lights (number of masts)”

### **III.5. Channelization Devices With Gates**

Move closer to the other Gate fields (III.3.A. Gates, III.3.B. Four-quadrant (or full barrier) Gates))

#### **IV.1. Type of Development**

Add "Recreation" to "Type of Development"

#### **V.5. Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)**

Change to 'Estimated Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)

#### **Suggestions for adding other data elements:**

##### **C      Spur Tracks**

Have an indicator for a spur track (add the element "Spur Track?").

##### **C      Transit Crossing Value**

Add a transit property code such as "T" (to indicate transit crossing).

FRA - Open National Inventory to transit crossings (questions/comments: (1) who will assign crossing numbers to transit crossings (2) accident prediction model won't work for light rail).

##### **C      Is the Crossing Number Posted?**

Add "Is the Crossing Number Posted?"

##### **C      Yield Signs**

Add box for yield signs.

##### **C      "Is there an Event Recorder?" or "Is there Health Monitoring?"**

Add "Is there Health Monitoring Recorder Present?    Yes/No

#### **Inventory File Structure/Format for Electronic Submission:**

C      FRA's standard inventory format "Format for FRA Inventory Fields - Data Entry Field Description" was included in the handouts.

C      There was a discussion about considering a single format for exchange of data.

#### **Mandatory Fields/Updating:**

C      All required data is required only for NEW crossings.

- C Should I.13. Street or Road Name be a required field?
- C If and when updating inventory becomes mandatory, it may be required that the crossing data be updated at least once every 3 years.

**Accuracy of Inventory Data:**

- C A suggestion was made to create a listing of crossings and send to the FRA to reconcile crossing data. Start with fields such as: What is Crossing Number? Which Railroad they belong to, What State and County are they in? What is type of Crossing? What is position of Crossing? Is crossing open or closed?
- C It is important to have accurate train counts and highway data (for accident prediction).

**Updating Processes:**

1. Suggestion made that FRA serves as clearinghouse in the case where the Railroad sends the updates to the FRA; or State can be Clearinghouse. Some States are (or want to be) the crossing data Clearinghouse.
2. Suggestion was made to have web-based inventory and use e-mail for electronically transferring updates, with States hosting a database and National task force and State database task forces.
3. Sharing of data was discussed (e.g., if the States perform site audits of crossings, they can share the information with the Railroads).
4. Several State and Railroad individuals brought up the need to have immediate access to updates made by the other party.

**Inventory Application:** (GX 32 and future applications that may be developed.)

**Suggestions:**

1. Set up GX 32 to exchange data between Railroads and States.
2. Have inventory application that has standard database format.
3. Allow GX 32 to be shared by allowing a file to be imported into it.
4. Entering out-of-sequence records into GX 32. These are records with an earlier effective date than the effective date of a record already in GX 32.
5. To get a copy of GX 32, request from Indus Corp.
6. Possibility of some day being able to update Inventory file on FRA Safety web site.

### **Updating Instructions:**

1. Fix instructions (II.1.) by taking out the word "typical". (Is average total trains for that day.)
2. If light rail (transit) crossings are included in the Inventory, the instructions for item II.4 (Railroad over Track) will need to be expanded.
3. Item III.3.K - Other Train Activated Warning Devices - In "other new technologies" remove the word "new". Take out arrester net and dragnet. Where do stationary corners go (in III.3K)?
4. Item IV.4. Are Truck Pullout Lanes Present? Instructions say commercial vehicles (define in instructions).
5. Item I.26. Fix instructions to explain what adjacent crossing is (parallel tracks).

### **Crossing Inventory Numbers:**

Crossing Inventory Numbers can be requested from Tom Woll, FRA.

### **Updating Responsibilities:**

Suggestions:

1. Have primary and secondary updating responsibilities.
2. Have a way to indicate who is responsible for updating items (State or Railroad).
3. Should responsibilities for some items be exclusive (either State or Railroad is responsible for the update)?
4. Have a procedure for accepting updates from State, even if Railroad has responsibility for certain fields, if State has done a physical inventory of the crossings.
5. Make type of crossing a State responsibility.
6. Have responsibility for Traffic Control data belong to the State/Highway Authority.